

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 through 9 are pending in this application. The specification has been amended to address inadvertent clerical oversights. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 2, indicated allowable, therein, and claim 9 placed in independent form. The dependency of claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 has been appropriately changed. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Kanamori.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by incorporating the limitations of claim 2, indicated allowable, into claim 1 claim 7 depending from claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Kanamori is solicited.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Kanamori in view of Chen et al.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by incorporating the limitations of claim 2, indicated allowable, into claim 1 upon which claim 8 depends. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Kanamori in view of Chen et al. is solicited.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 2 through 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. As noted above, the limitations of claim 2 have been

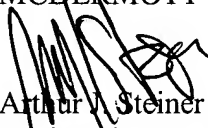
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incorporated into claim 1, claims 3 through 8 now depending from claim 1, and claim 9 placed in independent form. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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